

Message

From: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)
Sent: 6/15/2021 7:08:38 PM
To: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)
Subject: RE: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, Chemical Plant Explosion and Fire, Rockton, IL, NRC# 1307747 and 1307809 - Update #2

Thank you Sir.

Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)

From: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)
Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)

Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, Chemical Plant Explosion and Fire, Rockton, IL, NRC# 1307747 and 1307809 - Update #2

FYSA,

Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)

Special Agent
Senior Law Enforcement Intelligence Advisor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Criminal Investigation Division

Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Eoc, Epahq" <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>

Date: June 15, 2021 at 3:05:04 PM EDT

Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 5, Chemical Plant Explosion and Fire, Rockton, IL, NRC# 1307747 and 1307809 - Update #2

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EOC Spot Report: Region 5, Chemical Plant Explosion and Fire - Update #2

ROCKTON, IL, NRC# 1307747 and 1307809

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report Date: 6/14/2021

Last edited 6/15/2021 2:55 PM UTC

Overview: At approximately 7:00 AM CT on Monday, June 14, 2021, several fire departments from Illinois and Wisconsin were called to a fire (originally 4-alarms) at the Chemtool facility in Rockton, Illinois. Chemtool is a company that makes greases, additives, and other fluids including: industrial cleaners, corrosion inhibitors, and metalworking fluids. Immediately upon arrival, the Fire Chief implemented a mandatory evacuation of a one-mile radius surrounding the facility due to the presence of hazardous substances and oils within the building. The evacuation area remains at a one-mile radius and evacuation remains in effect. The evacuation area was not expanded to a 2-mile radius (as previously reported). An evacuation center has been established at the Roscoe Middle School in Roscoe, IL.

At the time of this update the fire is still burning, but Region 5 reports that good progress is being made. The area at the northwest corner of the facility that was consistently flaring up has calmed down; however, the fire chiefs are still concerned with that area as it is apparently where several 50,000 gallon tanks were located. No foam has been used in fire-fighting efforts although use of foam is being considered by Unified Command. Multiple media outlets are reporting that the fire could burn for days.

An estimated 1.5 million gallons of petroleum products and several million pounds of grease are stored on site. Oil has reached the storm and sanitary sewer systems, but has not reached the Rock River. Responders are working to contain the oil within the

sewer system, and have pre-emptively deployed boom within the Rock River. The river is low, due to drought conditions. The PRP installed an interceptor trench between the facility and the river, and lined it with ag lime to help neutralize possible acid runoff.

According to the Tier II report and field reports, hazardous materials on site are believed to include 9,500 lbs 10% zinc mixture, 5,100 lbs 14% zinc mixture, methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI), cyclohexamine, liquid nitrogen, lithium powder, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid (associated with batteries in forklifts), diphenylmethane diisocyanate, ethylene glycol, lead, and zinc.

The fire departments conducted initial community air monitoring. Air monitoring is now being conducted by the PRP, EPA, and Civil Support Team (CST), among others. No public water supply impacts have been identified. The Beloit Corporation Remedial Site is in the immediate vicinity of the Chemtool site.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Mutual Aid Box Alarm System resources have been exhausted, and Illinois is looking to Wisconsin for additional fire-fighting support. More than 30 fire departments from Illinois and Wisconsin have responded to the now 6-alarm fire. Illinois EPA has deployed two state OSCs to the fire. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Department of Labor (DOL) are also on site. ATSDR is providing public health guidance. EPA has also coordinated with Department of Interior. An informal Unified Command has been established. Rockton Fire Chief is serving as the Incident Commander. Multiple State agencies have also responded, and the National Guard has been deployed. CST also established a stationary air monitoring network.

EPA Actions: EPA Region 5 has deployed 4 OSCs along with START contractors to provide air monitoring and sampling assistance. The Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) is supporting the response with hazard modeling. EPA Region 5 has mobilized a virtual Environmental Unit to assist with the response. EPA has also initiated community air monitoring and sampling, over a 30-mile-long area. EPA established a stationary air monitoring network and is also conducting roving monitoring. Air monitoring results were stable overnight. EPA conducted a radiation survey per Illinois EPA request. No elevated levels were detected.

EPA Region 5 has established a website and is updating it with response reference materials: response.epa.gov/chemtoolfire. An internal data viewer has been added to the website. EPA will continue to update it as more information becomes available. The data viewer currently contains stationary air monitoring data from both EPA and CST as well as EPA roaming air monitoring data.

Media Interest: High

Media Links:

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/06/14/us/illinois-industrial-fire/index.html>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-rockton-big-fire-industrial-chemtool-20210614-dq7nazur3beshboydz36fv7qgy-story.html>

<https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/2021/6/14/22533352/rockton-illinois-chemical-plant-fire-evacuation>

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2021/06/14/rockton-fire-explosion-chemtool-chemical-plant/>

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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